

October 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Lionel Bailey, Jack Harris, Clint Cointment, Brin Ferlito, Mark Harrell, Ryan Larousse, Cindy O’Neal, Fred Raiford

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ryan Byrd, Gary O’Neal, Edwin Parker

Governor-Appointed Vacancies - 1

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Grandy, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD, Randy Clouatre, Sr., PLD, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, Bankston & Associates; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by ARBC President Clark.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: See above.

4. Audit Report of 2023-2024 - There were no public comments.

- Nikki Dupuy, with Diez, Dupuy, & Ruiz, LLC: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies in the financial statements. In the opinion of the auditor, the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Raiford, second by Bailey, to accept the audit report as presented.

5. Minutes – There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell, seconded by Harris to approve the August 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes, as presented.

6. Financial Statements – There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Harris to approve the August 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

7. Report by ARBC President

- **OCD/ARBC CEA Amendment Status** – ARBC President John Clark introduced Ms. Genea Lathers, OCD, Recovery and Mitigation Manager. Ms. Lathers spoke regarding the \$100 million allocation. Ms. Lathers stated the 4 parishes will take ownership of their own project in terms of implementation of those projects. Subsequent to the ARBC resolution stating that ARBC would still be involved and provide oversight and support, the parishes will implement the projects. Ms. Lathers stated they have been working with the grant managers of Livingston, Ascension, EBR and St. James’ parishes. Each of those parishes are signing into their applications and turning in the documents needed for OCD to subsequently amend the CEA. They estimate about 6-8 weeks of implementation and there is a digital signing process to help move the status along. Public Comment: John Rosso of Ascension Parish asked where a list of projects, their scope, location, status, etc. can be found. Response: Information on projects can be found on www.amitebasin.org and www.watershed.la.gov. Clark stated that the ARBC is continuing to work with PLD on a broader scale for the Bayou Manchac Flood Risk Reduction Project.
- **Draft Letter of Intent Status** – ARBC/PLD – ARBC President John Clark stated the next item under his report is the Draft Letter of Intent Status with ARBC and PLD. The ARBC Project Committee had a meeting with the Pontchartrain Levee District on July 17, 2024. It was basically to find middle ground to see where ARBC and PLD can work together considering the districts are overlapped in regard to Bayou Manchac Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Project. At that time, it was agreed that this is worthwhile effort and much needed project to do. He stated the draft Letter of Intent has been a little back and forth, but believes they are going

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Location: Louisiana State Capitol, Room 3, 900 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

to continue to work together collaboratively. He stated that East Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Ascension Parishes are going to be part of the project. It is represented in their project plan description as Phase 1B, that is Wards Creek and Lower Bayou Manchac. They will work on the LA 427 Bridge raising the height on Old Perkins Road and the upper part of the Bayou Manchac and whatever else that may be needed. He stated they are going to work together to try to find the funds to continue that effort to fix that and to implement that project in its entirety. He mentioned that on today's agenda, engineers who represent Pontchartrain Levee District and the Executive Director Ms. Monica Gorman will shed more light on where we are at on that. There were no questions or comments.

8. Report by Legal Counsel

- Bankston informed the Board that according to DEQ, approximately 40 tires were illegally dumped on ARBC property in the McHugh Road area. He requested Board authorization to have them removed and sent to recycling and to have No Dumping signs posted. The Board discussed the matter and agreed for Bankston to contact the Secretary of DEQ to request they remove them. Cointment suggested contacting Wildlife and Fisheries to file a report for illegal dumping and begin an investigation so ARBC can press charges.
- Bankston has been working with EBR Parish, Genesis Pipeline and contractors with the Corps regarding potential exposure of the pipeline possibly due to rainwater runoff. Genesis Pipeline crosses the pilot channel and a substantial part of ARBC property.

9. Old Business

- Presentation on Bayou Manchac Regional Flood Risk Project by PLD Consultant, McKim & Creed represented by Kimberly Koehl. This presentation is available for review on www.amitebasin.org. The presentation included a brief history of the project. Clearing, snagging and dredging Bayou Manchac. Dredging of Alligator Bayou. Realignment of Ward Creek at its confluence with Bayou Manchac. Perkins Road Bridge Replacement. 79,510 structures within benefiting area. Dredging scope of upper reach greatly reduced to conserve habitat and avoid clearing historic cypress swamp. Ward Creek Realignment modified based on input from BREC, EBR, and AP. Additional survey on Manchac obtained. The new project cost \$65M. New report with revised scopes, costs, and BCA is being finalized. Listed all permits acquired and being acquired. Access Study performed, identifying tracts for access to channel, stockpiling material, and removal of spoil material. GIS portal created showing features of tracts. PLD ROW acquisition team will be coordinating with prioritized landowners for servitudes. PLD has Quick-take authority. Funding: Capital Outlay received. Grants outstanding and continues to identify and submit for additional funding. LWI funds through EBR. ARBC Commissioner, representing PLD, Randy Clouatre, Sr., mentioned the deadline regarding the Louisiana Legislature adopted temporary exemption to the Scenic and Historic River Act. The deadline is August 1, 2026. PLD will share modeling and other data with parish engineers, as previously discussed.
- Report/Presentation by Garvin Pittman, The Louisiana Water Institute. This presentation is available on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org. The presentation includes monitoring of the ARBC Master Plan to keep it on schedule. Listed all meetings attended regarding the Master Plan and LWI Region 9. Discussed reimbursements requested. Clark stated that if the ARBC Master Plan can suffice as the required LWI Watershed Plan for Region 9, then time and money can be saved.
- Monthly Report/Presentation by Dewberry – Status of the ARBC Master Plan. This presentation is available on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org. Sam Cramptom, Dewberry, stated that by next month's ARBC meeting the initial public meetings will be concluded and summarized. Final public meetings will be held next year.
- CRDC Project Status. Real Estate Status: The Board discussed Brooks Lake after learning that Florida Gas may need to relocate its pipeline. Bankston gave a brief history of Brooks Lake and stated this could delay the project by up to 2 years due to FERRC. Monthly updates can be found on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org as provided by the USACE.

10. New Business – There were no public comments.

- Amendment #1 – ARBC/Dewberry Contract, Rate Clarification. The rate clarification does not alter the cost not to exceed in the original contract. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell seconded by Bailey to approve said amendment, as presented.

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- Approve 1-year Office Lease Agreement – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Harris to approve said office lease, as presented.
- 11.** General or Non-Agenda Item(s) Public Comments: John Ross, Ascension Parish. In brief, Mr. Ross stated he is encouraged by the activities of the ARBC, but he would encourage there be more specifics included in the ARBC Master Plan.
- 12.** The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Harrell, to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 pm.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President
Date: November 12, 2024

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary